



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/598,806

10/03/2006

Ralph Painta

INA-PT187 (43640-18us)

1589

3624 7590 03/15/2010

VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C.
UNITED PLAZA, SUITE 1600
30 SOUTH 17TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

REESE, ROBERT T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3654

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/15/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed January 12, 2010, has been entered. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 5 had been cancelled in an earlier action. Therefore, claims 1 and 6 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uwe et al. (DE 10253495) in view of Brock et al. (2,392,573) further in view of Kraus et al. (2004/0227400).

As per claim 1, Uwe et al disclose: Traction mechanism drive (Figure 1) comprising an integrated starter generator (attached to element 3. Paragraph 25, which is a description of figure 1, describes the generator as a starter generator) with a traction mechanism roller (exterior of 2), which is arranged on a generator shaft (attached to element 3), on which a traction mechanism is guided (exterior of 2), the traction mechanism roller is de-couple able from a generator shaft of the starter generator via a freewheel (2) for damping peak loads appearing on a drive side. (Figure 1 depicts all of these features)

However, Uwe et al. does not disclose: the starter generator is mounted in a displaceable manner in order to set the traction mechanism in tension counter to a restoring force.

Brock et al. disclose a tractor generator mounting in which the generator (13) is displaceably mounted (depicted in figure 1) and is set in tension (by spring 28).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the starter generator as taught by Uwe et al. to incorporate the generator mounting as taught by Brock et al. to increase the tension on the drive belt for better performance of the belt drive and to reduce vibrations on the belt.

Uwe further does not disclose that the starter generator is set in tension in a displaceable manner by a hydraulic element, which is actuated to tension the traction mechanism independently for a start-up mode and for a generator mode.

Kraus et al. discloses a tensioner with an actuator (25) with a hydraulically operated control element (Paragraph 16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the starter generator as taught by the combination of Uwe et al. and Brock et al. to incorporate the hydraulically controlled actuator as taught by Kraus et al. to maintain the tension on the drive belt for better performance of the belt drive and to reduce vibrations on the belt. (The use of the hydraulic element, which is actuated to tension the traction mechanism independently for a start-up mode and for a generator mode, describes the intended use of the hydraulic element, and as such is given little weight.)

As per claim 6, Uwe et al. disclose that traction mechanism is a belt (description of Figure 1).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed January 12, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As discussed previously, The Brock reference depicts a generator, displaceably mounted and set in tension by a spring (See Brock figure 1). The Kraus reference teaches the use of a hydraulic element (25), in place of a spring, to set an element (10) in a displaceable manner (Paragraph 16 and depicted in figure 1). Kraus's tensioner is configured in a similar manner to Brock's, except that it uses a hydraulic unit to set the element in tension (as opposed to a spring) and the tensioning unit is not a generator. Substituting a hydraulic tensioner in place of a spring tensioner would be an obvious substitution to provide a source of tension to the displaceable generator. As such, it is deemed to be proper to incorporate this reference to teach this limitation.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3654

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT T. REESE whose telephone number is (571) 270-5794. The examiner can normally be reached on M_F 7:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Q. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-6952. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John Q. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3654

RTR